

PARK & CUNIFF,

TWO DOLLARS A YEAR, IN ADVANCE.

INDUSTRIAL LUMINARY.

PUBLISHED EVERY TUESDAY MORNING.

32 per year in advance, \$2.00 in payment by

any person who will obtain six new subscribers,

and forward the amount of subscription, \$12, in

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The Autobiography of John Adams.

We have been permitted, through the

indulgence of the publishers of this important

work, to lay before our readers several

extracts from it of engrossing interest, but none

will be read with more pleasure than the

following. It is taken from the Diary, and

written in Mr. Adams thirty-ninth year:—

[Evening Post.]

APPOINTMENT OF COL. WASHINGTON AS COMMAN-

DER IN CHIEF OF THE CONTINENTAL ARMY.

This measure of imbecility, the second

position to the King, embarrassed every

debate without end for appointing

committees to draw up resolutions of the causes,

and objects of taking arms, and

view to obtain decisive declarations against

independence, &c. In the mean time the

New England army investing Boston, the

New England legislatures, congresses, and

conventions, and the whole body of the

people were left without means of war

without arms, clothing, pay, or even countenance

and encouragement. Every post brought

me letters from Mr. Adams, Dr. Watson,

Dr. Cooper, General James Warren, and

sometimes General Ward and his aids, and

General Heath and many others, urging in

pathetic terms the impossibility of keeping

their men together, and that we must

the assistance of congress. I was daily

urging all these things, but we were embarrased

with more than one difficulty, not only

with the party in favor of the petition to the

King, and the party who were jealous of inde-

pendence, but a third party, which was

southern party against a northern, and a jeal-

ous against a New England army under

the command of a New England general.

Another embarrassment which was never

known, and which was carefully

concealed by those who knew it, the

Masachusetts and other New England delegates

were divided. Mr. Hancock and Mr. Cushing

gave back; Mr. Adams did not come

forward, and even Samuel Adams was

hesitant. Mr. Hancock himself had an

ambition to be appointed commander-in-chief.

Whether he thought an election a com-

pliment due him, and intended to have the

election of him, or whether he would

accept of it, I know not. To the complaint he

had some pretensions, for, at that time, his

exercises, sacrifices and general merit in

the cause of his country had been incompar-

ably greater than those of Colonel Washing-

ton. But the delicacy of his health, and his

entire want of experience in actual service,

though an excellent militia officer, were

decisive objections to him in my mind. In

consequence of this objection, I was

collecting another, and the probability that

the British army would take advantage of

our delays, march out to Boston, and spread

desolation as far as they could go. I con-

cluded with a motion, in form, that congress

would adopt the army at Cambridge, and ap-

point General Lee, though this was not

the proper time to nominate a general, yet as

I had reason to believe this was a point of

great difficulty, I had no hesitation to de-

clare that I had but one gentleman in my

mind for so important a command, and that

was a gentleman from New England, who

was very well known to all of us, a

gentleman whose skill and experience as

an officer, whose independent fortune, great

character, and liberal and liberal character,

would command the approbation of all Amer-

ica, and unite the cordial exertions of all the

Colonies better than any other person in the

Union.

Mr. Washington, who appeared to sit

near the door, as soon as he heard me allude

to him, from his usual modesty, darted into

the library-room. Mr. Hancock, who was

speaking on the state of the Colonies,

the army at Cambridge, and the enemy, I

heard me with visible pleasure, but when I

came to describe Washington for the com-

mand, he was so much affected, that he was

struck with a change of countenance. Mortification

was expressed clear as his face could

exhibit them. Mr. Samuel Adams second-

ed the motion, and that did not soften

the President's objection, and several of the

gentlemen declared themselves against the

appointment of Mr. Washington, not on ac-

count of any personal objection against him,

but because the army was all from New En-

gland, had a general of their own, appeared to

be satisfied with him, and had proved them-

selves able to imprison the British army in

Boston, which was all they expected or de-

sired at that time. Mr. Pendleton of Vir-

ginia, Mr. Sherman of Connecticut, and

several others, who were not from New En-

gland, and several others more faintly ex-

pressed their opposition and their fears of discon-

tent in the army and in New England. Mr. Paine

expressed a great opinion of General Ward,

and a strong friendship for him, having been

his classmate at college, or at least his con-

temporary; but gave no opinion upon the

subject. The subject was postponed to a

future day. In the mean time, pains were

taken out of doors to obtain unanimity, and

the voices were generally so clearly in

favor of Washington, that the dissentient

members were persuaded to withdraw their opposition

and most strenuously urged by

Mr. Thomas Jefferson of Maryland,

unanimously elected, and the army adopted

General Lee, who was elected the second, and

Lee the third. Gates and Mifflin, I believe, had

some appointments, and General Washing-

ton, in the mean time, the game of a person

plus, a lawyer of some eminence, for his

private secretary, and the gentlemen all set

off for the camp. They had not proceeded

twenty miles from Philadelphia, before they met

a courier with news of the battle of Ber-

ke's Hill, the death of General Warren, the

slaughter among the British officers and men,

as well as among ours, and the burning of

Charlottesville.

Mr. Adams was one of the committee of three

(Mr. Mearns and Mr. Lynch) appointed to wait

The Day and the Week.

BY HENRY WARD BEECHER.

The family educates the affections. Se-

cular affections train and sharpen the business

affections. Public affairs give general infor-

mation; but where is moral training to come

from?

The moral element in man has but a sor-

ry passion. A few, in every community,

are so endowed as to stand up, men of

energy and of natural religion, without and

against training. They may not be Chris-

tians, but they are men of a strong re-

ligious nature, and of slender means; and

justice and an imperfect acquaintance with

conscience. Such cases are singular and

isolated. The mass of men are not just re-

ligious, but they are self-interest men as

they rise, and their selfish and animal in-

stincts are more active, more influential than

their religious feelings. The habits of life

are founded upon current selfishness. The

character is shaped by the influence of three

or four feelings:—the love of property, of

power, and influence, of pride, and by the

love of animal indulgence.

Benevolence, as an overruling power; jus-

tice, as an impulse of kindness; and con-

science, as a love of God and man, as a con-

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Wonderful Works of the Creator.

The mariner who first crossed the central

Atlantic in search of a new world, was

astonished when, on the 19th September, 1492

found himself in the midst of that great

band of sea-weed—the sea-weed meadow of

Ovidio—the Sargasso sea, which, with a

varying breadth of 100 to 300 miles, stretch-

ing over twenty-five degrees of latitude, cov-

ers 200,000 square miles of surface, is a

huge floating garden, in which countless my-

riads of minute animals find food and shel-

ter. Now, it is the eddy of numerous

sea rivers which collect in one spot, and the

cold water of the Northern Atlantic ming-

ling with the warm streams of the southern

and western currents, which produce the tem-

perature most fitted to promote the amaz-

ing development of vegetable and animal

life. What becomes of the dead remains of

so vast marine growth? Do they decom-

pose as fast as they are produced? or do

they accumulate into deposits of peculiar

value, destined to reward the researches of

future geologists and engineers?—The

Atlantic of our day has become the habita-

ble land of an after time? In the chart of

the Pacific Ocean we are presented with an-

other than the high latitudes of the influence

of sea rivers on vegetation.

From the shores of South Victoria, on the

Atlantic continent, a stream of cold water,

60 degrees in width, (the reader will recol-

lect that in high latitudes the degrees of lat-

itude are very narrow,) drifts slowly along

in a northeast and easterly direction across

the Southern Pacific, till it impinges upon

the South American coast to the south of

Chile, and Peru, carrying colder

waters into the warm sea, and producing a

colder air along the low plains which stretch

from the shores of the Pacific to the base of

the Andes. This current, discovered by

Admiral Bunting, and named after him, lowers

the temperature of the air about twelve de-

grees, while that of the water itself is some-

times as much as twenty-four degrees colder

than the surface water of the ocean. It

also affects the vegetation along the whole of

this coast; at the same time the cold stream

raises fogs and mists, which not only conceal

the coast and perplex the navigator, but ex-

tend inland also, and materially modify the

climate.

The beautiful and beneficent character of

modifying influence becomes not only ap-

parent, but most strikingly so, when we con-

sider that in a map of the world we have

that on the coast of Peru no rain ever falls;











